



INDIANA STATE POLICE LABORATORY DIVISION

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BULLETIN

CODIS DNA DATABASE

INTRODUCTION: The Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) is a computer database of DNA profiles used to solve crimes across the United States. In Indiana, DNA profiles obtained from the following categories can be entered into CODIS: convicted felons, crime scene evidence, missing persons, relatives of missing persons and unidentified human (remains). The purpose of the database is to generate investigative leads by identifying matches between these categories. A continued “life of crime” or the high incidence of recidivism in criminals is the concept upon which the DNA database program is based. If a convicted offender’s profile matches crime scene evidence, this can identify a potential suspect(s). The database can also link multiple unsolved crimes to identify serial offenses and connect agencies who can then work together in the investigation. Finally, CODIS can be used to identify human remains by matching them to missing persons or to their biological relatives. To maximize the value of this program, biological evidence from unsolved crimes and missing persons cases must be analyzed and entered into CODIS. Please also see Physical Evidence Bulletin 21 for Missing Persons/Unidentified Remains.

I. CONVICTED OFFENDERS

DNA samples (usually oral swabs) are collected from all individuals convicted of a felony by Department of Correction, county officials or contract personnel.

II. NO SUSPECT/UNSOLVED CASES

- A. Unsolved cases with potential DNA evidence unambiguously relevant to the crime, including those with no suspects, should be submitted to the Indiana State Police Laboratory for analysis.

- B. For proper evidence collection procedures, see Indiana State Police Physical Evidence Bulletin 17 for Evidence Collection for DNA Analysis.
- C. When possible, a DNA profile will be developed from evidentiary samples. All profiles determined to be eligible will be entered into CODIS. The laboratory shall make final determination of what is eligible to be entered based on information provided by the submitting agency.
- D. When submitting "touch" or skin cell only evidence, submission of elimination DNA standards from anyone known to have touched that area are necessary. For example, in the case of an auto theft with a swab of the steering wheel, DNA standards from the regular driver(s) of the vehicle should also be submitted.
- E. Commonly touched items (or items routinely touched by 3 or more people) such as door knobs and countertops may not be CODIS eligible.
- F. Due to extremely low success rates, the Laboratory will not examine cartridges, cartridge cases or swabs of these items for the presence of DNA except in extenuating circumstances with the approval of the Laboratory Manager or Unit Supervisor.
- G. Profiles entered into CODIS shall be searched routinely against the database. The submitting agency will be notified of any confirmed matches.
- H. The presence of a suspect's convicted offender sample in CODIS does not replace the requirement for a new evidentiary suspect standard for comparison to crime scene evidence. Matches generated by CODIS database searches are meant to provide investigative leads and probable cause information. An evidentiary standard will still be requested from the individual for criminal prosecution.

For more information, please contact a member of the CODIS Unit at the Indianapolis Regional Laboratory.

Indianapolis Regional Laboratory
550 West 16th Street, Suite C
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Telephone: 317-921-5300
Toll Free: 866-855-2840

Laboratory hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time Zone; Monday through Friday

CODIS Guidelines for Property and other Non-Violent Crimes

